ITS Technical Bulletin 168
CICS/ESA 3.1.1 TO CICS/ESA 3.3.0

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This bulletin will be the first in a series of bulletins that will be issued by DAS/ITS as we migrate to the new release of CICS/ESA. This migration will take place over the next 9 - 12 months. We will be going from CICS/ESA 3.1.1 to CICS/ESA 3.3.0

There are numerous enhancements and changes that are part of the new release, these changes will be highlighted in future technical bulletins. There are however certain preparatory steps that must be taken by the customer community in order for us to reach the migration targets that we have established of summer 1994.

CICS/ESA 3.3.0 does not support the use of macro level code to request CICS services. All code that uses MACRO level call will have to be converted to command level calls. This activity can commence now, using the current level of CICS that is in production.

CICS/ESA 3.3.0 does not support the direct access of control blocks by application programs. This means that commands such as EXEC CICS ADDRESS CSA are no longer valid. Access of the TCA and data contained in the terminal control blocks are likewise not accessible. If there is a need to access CICS control blocks, and interfaces in 3.3.0 do not provide the necessary access, please contact the CICS support group for a review of your requirements, and to discuss ways to obtain the data, or suggest alternatives.

In order to assists the customer community in converting their macro level code to command level, DAS/ITS has supplied a report of all customer CICS libraries that MAY contain macro level code and/or access CICS control blocks.

This report is found in IIGP.COPY.MACROS", and can be viewed by the customer community. Due to the inexact nature of looking for CICS macro level code in load modules, the report is not a definitive statement that macro code exists in the modules. It is however a starting point to assist the customer in deciding where the search for macro level code should begin. The report that is in this dataset will be refreshed on a monthly basis, and will thus help in assessing your conversion activity.

For those agencies that would like to do pretesting of critical applications, DAS/ITS will make CICS 3.3.0 available on CPUO The Current planned availability for this activity is January 1994. The duration of testing on CPUO will be flexible enough to accommodate critical application testing. We would encourage the customer community to take advantage of this resource, as it will help you avoid problems as we move 3.3.0 to the production CICS systems.

As we move CICS/ESA 3.3.0 to CPU4 ITS will provide a CICS 3.1.1 environment on CPU4 for continued support and testing of application code that needs to be changed in the 3.1.1 production regions, but does not, as yet, function in a 3.3.0 region. As this item comes closer to implementation we will issue a technical bulletin which will contain detailed migration dates and plans for each CICS production system.

During the migration process from 3.1.1 to 3.3.0 and as a standard for future processing, DAS/ITS will be developing an ISPF interface to dynamically build job streams. This will help to eliminate the use of obsolete libraries. As the complexity of jobs streams has increased with CICS and database preprocessors, multiple compilers and version levels, map building etc, it has become extremely difficult to assure the customer community is accessing latest releases of products, and are aware of all current release levels available for products, and provide the customer community with a single interface to access all these products. With this new interface, selection of release levels of products and various combinations will be automatically validated, and if desired by the user, saved for a "fast path submit" of a job. The use of private proclibs and procedures for JCL compiles, assembles, etc; will be the users own responsibility. System library names used in the interface may change based on system support requirements. ITS will support the necessary changes to the interface to accommodate any system changes. Users of the interface will be informed of changes through the use of a "bulletin board" type option. The ITS group will be meeting with various agencies to solicit input towards the specification requirements for the interface. The current schedule is to have this interface available before CICS 3.3.0 is installed on CPU4.

With the CICS 3.3.0 installation it will be necessary for the customer community to evaluate any purchased application packages that they are using; to verify that the package is compatible with CICS/ESA 3.3.0. It may be necessary for an upgrade to the package be performed. Initial investigation shows that the following packages should be researched: Finance, FirstPlus, Komand, Monies. There may be others that DAS/ITS is not aware of.

There are 2 IBM/CICS manuals that the customer community may wish to order to assist in the migration process, they are :

      1) SC33-0676 CICS/ESA Application Programming Reference.
      2) SC33-0675 CICS/ESA Application Programming Guide.